

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /116 W

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P R 132219Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9802

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY ASUUNCION

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

US MISSION GENEVA 470

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4838

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR REFERENCE LINE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SOCI

SUBJECT: AP INTERVIEW WITH PINOCHET

REF: SANTIAGO (A) 2255, (B) 4740, AND (C) 4663

1. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH AP, GEN. PINOCHET STATED THERE WILL BE NO MORE EXECUTIONS; OFFICERS WHO ENGAGED IN TORTURE HAVE BEEN PUNISHED; TRIAL OF EX-ALLENDE GOVERNMENT LEADERS WILL BE SEMI-PUBLIC;

POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS; SELF-CENSORSHIP OF NEWS MEDIA WILL BE RELAXED "WHEN SITUATION IS NORMAL"; AND PRESENT CURFEW "WILL LAST FOR A LONG TIME." PINOCHET DISCOUNTED TALK OF TROUBLE WITH PERU, REAFFIRMED THAT ALLENDE COMMITTED SUICIDE, AND GAVE BACKGROUND ON MILITARY COUP PLOTTING DURING ALLENDE
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GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR INTERVIEW AUG 12 BETWEEN JUNTA PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND ASSOCIATED PRESS SANTIAGO BUREAU CHIEF ROBERT OHMAN, PINOCHET FLATLY INDICATED THERE WILL BE NO MORE EXECUTIONS, ALTHOUGH "IF THERE IS FIGHTING THERE COULD BE DEATHS, HOWEVER." HE EMPHASIZED ALSO THAT MALTREATMENT SUCH AS TORTURE OF PRISONERS IS FORBIDDEN, AND THAT A CAPTAIN AND LIEUTENANT HAVE ALREADY BEEN CASHIERED FOR ABUSES, ANOTHER CAPTAIN IS IN PRISON, AND ANOTHER 20 TO 30 MILITARY HAVE BEEN SEVERELY PUNISHED FOR VIOLATION OF THE ORDER AGAINST TORTURE.

3. PINOCHET SAID THAT THERE ARE NOW 600 OR FEWER DETAINEES IN VARIOUS CAMPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ASKED ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF THE PROCESSING OF THESE CASES, HE SAID THAT "THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULT CASES."

4. TRIALS OF ABOUT 40 PROMINENT ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND UP LEADERS (THE "DAWSON ISLAND" GROUP) WILL BE "SEMIPUBLIC", WITH PRESS ACCESS BUT "WITH LESS PUBLICITY" THAN AIR FORCE TRIAL LAST APRIL TO JUNE. SIAD DETAILS OF WHEN AND HOW THESE PERSONS WILL BE TRIED ARE STILL NOT DETERMINED.

5. PINOCHET SAID THAT PRES. ALLENDE AND SOME 40 MEMBERS OF HIS PERSONAL GUARD HAD "SURRENDERED" SEPT 11 AND GONE TO STREET TO LAY DOWN ARMS WHEN ALLENDE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO LA MONEDA AND SHOT HIMSELF.

6. WHILE MARXIST POLITICAL PARTIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE BARRED, PINOCHET SAID THAT OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITY MAY RESUME "BUT CERTAINLY NOT FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS". SIMILARLY, "SELF-CENSORSHIP" OF THE CHILEAN PRESS WILL BE RELAXED ONLY "WHEN THE SITUATION IS NORMAL", ANF THE CURFEW (NOW 0100 TO 0530 IN SANTIAGO) "WILL LAST FOR A LONG TIME" BECAUSE "IT IS VERY BENEFICIAL FOR THE CHILEANS. THE FATHER ARRIVES HOME EARLY AND THE WIFE IS HAPPY."

7. PINOCHET DISCOUNTED RUMORS OF TROUBLE WITH PERU.

8. RETURNING TO THEME HE DISCUSSED AT RECENT ROTARY CLUB LUNCH, (REF B), PINOCHET SAID THAT COUP PLANNING AGAINST ALLENDE GOVERN-
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MENT BEGAN 17 MONTHS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1973. PLAN ULTIMATELY USED WAS BEGUN APRIL 13, 1972, WHEN PINOCHET AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ORDERED "STUDY OF POLITICAL SITUATION...FOR EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL DEFENSE." PLANNING WAS COMPLETED JULY 6, 1973 WITH SEPTEMBER 14, 1973 NAMED AS A "DISTRIBUTION" DATE. EVENTS OF AUGUST AND EARLY SEPT, INCLUDING ALLENDE ATTEMPTS TO "SHAKEUP" ARMED FORCES AND SEPT 9 SPEECH TO SOCIALIST PARTY BY CARLOS ALTAMIRANO, LED ARMED FORCES TO MOVE.

9. COMMENT. PINOCHET'S ASSURANCE OF NO MORE EXECUTIONS IS FIRST PUBLIC COMMITMENT ON SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH HIGH GOC OFFICIALS TOLD US PRIVATELY SOME TIME AGO THAT THIS NOW GOC POLICY. SIMILARLY, GOC HAS REFERRED VAGUELY TO PUNISHMENT OF MILITARY WHO MALTREAT PRISONERS, BUT THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC OFFICIAL ADMISSION THAT AS MANY AS "20 OR 30" HAVE BEEN PUNISHED FOR TORTURE. FIGURE OF 2000 OR LESS DETAINEES IS ALSO NEW. LAST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON RECORD WAS THAT OF JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE CINC GEN. LEIGH WHO REFERRED TO 6000 DETAINEES ON APRIL 24 (REF. A). EMBASSY CONTINUES BELIEVE ACTUAL FIGURE IS BETWEEN 5000 AND 6000. OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEMBER AMB ROBERT WOODWARD GAVE US POSSIBLE CLUE TO DISCREPANCY WHEN HE TOLD US THAT IN ADDITION TO 1,800 STILL HELD WITHOUT CHARGES, THERE WERE ANOTHER 4,200 AGAINST WHOM "CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE." PINOCHET MAY CONSIDER ONLY THOSE HELD WITHOUT CHARGES TO MERIT TITLE "PRISONERS" IN CONTEXT OF THIS INTERVIEW.

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